

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2487

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, ASEC, MX

SUBJECT: INTERIOR MINISTER'S COMMITMENT TO DO EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE TO SAVE LIFE OF PATTERSON

FOLLOWING CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH
THE AMBASSADOR SPOKE TO INTERIOR MINISTER MOYA PALENCIA
AT 1515 LOCAL TIME. FOLLOWING ARE ESSENTIAL POINTS
COVERED:

AMB JOVA: DO YOU HAVE ANY RECENT NEWS?

MOYA P: JUST THE SAME THING. IT SEEMS THAT THE GIRL IS
A LITTLE CONTRADICTIONARY REGARDING WHETHER THERE IS MONEY
OR NOT. SHE IS GOING TO LEAVE SHORTLY FOR TUCSON.

AMB. JOVA: THAT IS THE INFORMATION WE HAVE, ALSO. HER
MOTHER THOUGHT THAT HER FATHER WAS GOING TO GIVE THE
MONEY. HE SAID NO, I CANNOT RAISE THE MONEY IN 24 HOURS.
THIS IS A LARGE DEMAND.

MOYA P: I BELIEVE THAT HER MOTHER IS BRINGING SOME MONEY.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH. WHAT WE WANT IS FOR THEM TO MAKE
CONTACT AT THE HOTEL SO WE CAN GAIN TIME.

AMB. JOVA: IF SHE WERE TO HAVE MONEY, SHOULD SHE GIVE IT TO
THEM OR NOT?

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MOYA P: YES, SHE OUGHT TO GIVE THEM SOMETHING. BUT SHE

CAN ALSO SAY I HAVE NOTHING. THIS MAY BE A SELF-KIDNAPPING, BUT IN ANY CASE WE ARE DEALING WITH INEPT PEOPLE WHO MAY HAVE SOME RELATION TO ONE OR BOTH OF THE PATTERSONS. THE WHOLE THING IS VERY STRANGE.

AMB. JOVA: WE ALSO HAVE OUR DOUBTS. HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN ME VERY SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS; WHILE THEY TOO RECOGNIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF A SELF-KIDNAPPING IT IS ALSO VERY POSSIBLE THAT A CRIME HAS BEEN COMMITTED, WHETHER BY MEXICANS OR NORTH AMERICANS.

MOYA P: WE CAN'T DISCARD EITHER OF THESE HYPOTHESES.

AMB. JOVA: I AM QUITE SURE, MR. MINISTER, THAT YOU ARE VERY CONSCIOUS OF THIS AND HAVE TAKEN FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE. THE CRIME WAS AFTER ALL COMMITTED ON MEXICAN SOIL. WE, OF COURSE, WOULDN'T WANT ANY LETUP IN OUR EFFORTS JUST BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF FRAUD.

MOYA P: NO, NO. QUITE THE CONTRARY.

AMB. JOVA: I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE CAPT. NASAR FULL GUIDANCE ON HOW TO PROCEED.

MOYA P: YES, YES. CAPT. NASAR WILL EVEN GO TO TUCSON WITH MRS. PATTERSON.

AMB. JOVA: I HOPE CAPT. NASAR CAN EVEN ADVISE HER.

MOYA P: YES, HE WILL ADVISE HER ON HOW TO PLAY FOR TIME. CAPT. NASAR WILL BE THERE TO SEE HOW THEY MAKE CONTACT AND HOW THEY BEHAVE.

AMB. JOVA: BUT I CAN ASSURE WASHINGTON THAT YOU ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE?

MOYA P: CERTAINLY, NOR WILL WE TAKE RISKS WITH HER LIFE. WE WILL GIVE ALL THE PROTECTION POSSIBLE. FOR THE MOMENT WE ARE JUST GOING TO WATCH AS THEY MAY MAKE A MISTAKE.
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AMB. JOVA: IF THERE WERE MONEY, SHOULD SHE GIVE IT OR NOT?

MOYA P: WELL, YOU UNDERSTAND IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO GET IT, TOO. ABOVE ALL ON A WEEKEND AND IN MIXED BILLS.

AMB. JOVA: EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVEN'T ASKED FOR MIXED BILLS? WE'VE GOT TO TRY TO GIVE LARGE BILLS (LARGE DENOMINATIONS).

MOYA P: WELL, WE REALLY DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS A KIDNAPPING.

AMB. JOVA: WELL, BUT IF IT WERE A REAL KIDNAPPING, IN THE CASE THAT IT BECAME NECESSARY, THE RIGHT MOMENT...

MOYA P: IN THAT CASE, I'D HAVE TO CALL THE PRESIDENT AND ACT ON HIS INSTRUCTIONS. IF THIS WERE A REAL KIDNAPPING WE'D DO EVERYTHING WE COULD TO SAVE HIM IN THE NAME OF HUMANITARIANISM.

AMB. JOVA: VERY GOOD, THEN. I CAN QUOTE THIS TO WASHINGTON AND ASSURE THEM THAT AS YOU TOLD ME YESTERDAY AND THIS MORNING, THE GOM WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SAVE HIS LIFE.

MOYA P: YES, YOU CAN. I THINK WE SHOULD KNOW SOMETHING BY TOMORROW MORNING. BUT WE NEED MORE TIME; THEY MAY THUS MAKE A MISTAKE AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO PLAY FOR TIME. WE NOW KNOW THAT THE OTHER AMERICAN GOT INTO THE CARRYALL WITH HIM. THE CAR WAS FOUND IN PERFECT CONDITION WITH THE KEYS REMOVED.
JOVA

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